

Spring 2011

# Under the Dome - Spring 2011

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina

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# UNDER *the* DOME

*Telling the Story of Southern Life*

McKISSICK MUSEUM NEWSLETTER • Spring 2011

## Walter Anderson: Everything I See is New and Strange

January 15–May 7, 2011

"Nature does like to be anticipated, but loves to surprise; in fact it seems to justify itself to man in that way, restoring his youth to him each time."  
—Walter Inglis Anderson

This colorful exhibition presents 65 works of art by Walter Anderson that are responses to his natural surroundings along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Beyond the beautiful ways in which he depicts this natural world, his attention to the Southern coastline and barrier islands resonates with our heightened concern for the condition and sustainability of these places. His devotion to nature defined his true spirit and is reflected in art work that transcends time and place.

Walter Inglis Anderson (1903–1965) was a curious mixture of sophisticated professional artist and secluded outsider. In his early life, he followed the path of the properly trained art student, learning traditional skills at officially recognized art institutions. But in his later years Anderson withdrew more and more from the intellectual and social contact of his peers, finding his inspiration in an intense and solitary interaction with nature. The sheer quantity of his work is astonishing and indicates this obsessive dedication: almost 10,000 drawings and 5,000 watercolors, many unfinished, were found after his death. He produced oil paintings, murals, textiles, ceramics, sculptures, and prints. Anderson also left hundreds of pages of notes in journals he referred to as his logs.

His favorite subjects were animals, but he was as interested in their movements as in their forms. He believed that all animals—farm animals, sea creatures, pets—made beautiful music as they glided through the air or traversed the land. He sought to capture the emotions and rhythms of this harmony in visual equivalents: colors, repetitive motifs, melodic lines. Anderson worked to translate the natural grace of living creatures into stylizations of form in bright, primary colors accentuated by repeated patterns of strong, sensuous lines.



The exhibition **Walter Anderson: Everything I See is New and Strange** is provided courtesy of the Walter Anderson Museum of Art, Ocean Springs, Miss., and is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts' American masterpieces program.

*Top: Walter Rowing His Boat  
Walter Inglis Anderson, 1955  
Watercolor on paper, 8 1/2 x 11 in.  
The Family of Walter Anderson*

*Middle: Frog with Iris  
Walter Inglis Anderson, 1960  
Watercolor on paper  
Walter Anderson Museum of Art*

*Left: Horn Island  
Walter Inglis Anderson, 1960  
Watercolor on paper, three separate sheets  
The Family of Walter Anderson*





### FROM SNAPSHOT TO CIVIC ACTION:

## Creating Healthy Environments through Community Engagement

JANUARY 3–MARCH 26, 2011

### Opening reception:

Tuesday, January 18, 2011,  
from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**From Snapshot to Civic Action** features photographs and corresponding stories from residents in Columbia's Waverly public housing community. Participants applied the Photovoice methodology, which is an action research method that integrates photography and critical discussion to examine community concerns from the perspective of the "resident experts"—the people living, working, and playing in the targeted context.

This exhibition will provide an opportunity for visitors to better understand the challenges and triumphs of life in a public housing community. They will engage in a dialogue with the artwork and the artists as a starting point for developing a plan for civic action and community improvement. Following the exhibit at USC, the artwork will then travel to the Tillis Center in the Waverly public housing community, where it will be showcased and used to inspire further discussion about community change opportunities.

**From Snapshot to Civic Action** is sponsored by the McKissick Museum, the USC College of Social Work, the USC Provost Creative and Performing Arts Grant, the Kresge Foundation, and the Columbia Housing Authority.

## Artful Lives: Molasses of the Kuna

APRIL 9–JUNE 25, 2011

The English journalist Catherine Howard, in commenting about current fashion, recently wrote, "Look at any woman's wardrobe and you glimpse a little of her heart and soul." This seems to be true of all peoples and all times.

Modesty and protection against the elements are not the only purposes of clothing. Among the most notable examples of this are the intricately sewn and embroidered mola blouses of the Kuna women of coastal Panama. These women have developed a distinctive style unlike that of any other folk culture. They use their clothing as a mode of personal expression, taking great care with decisions about the combinations of skirts and scarves as well as with the creation of their mola blouses. This attention to detail, along with their expert stitchery, has earned this craft recognition around the world.

**Artful Lives: Molasses of the Kuna** explores the history and contemporary textile creations of this folk art tradition. In the mid-19th century, Kuna women started experimenting with ways to transfer body painting designs onto cloth. The process eventually developed into the creation of designs, drawn from the environment, that were cut out and sewn onto fabric. Over the years, these artists have developed hundreds of mola designs as well as creative ways of executing them. Today, the sale of these textile arts is the second most important income source to the Kuna, and examples are collected by museums around the world.

**Artful Lives** is on view at McKissick Museum from April 9 to June 25 and contains dozens of examples of both complete Mola blouses and individual panels. Drawn from the extensive collection of Jean E. Kanes, most have never been exhibited before. According to Museum Director Lynn Robertson, "This textile tradition works well with McKissick's interest in the ways women express themselves in a domestic sphere through their needlework. Like quilts, these creations are not only beautiful and inventive but also the products of a community that values the perpetuation of their traditional culture."



Top and right: Mola blouse panels from  
the collection of Jean E. Kanes





Columbia Mayor Henry Lyons (1805–1858)

## Museum Acquires Important Portrait

A fine portrait of Columbia Mayor Henry Lyons (1805–1858), which was featured in the exhibition **A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Jewish Life**, was generously donated to McKissick Museum this summer by Richard “Sandy” Luce. As a young man living in Columbia, Lyons most likely worked in the grocery store at the corner of Richardson (Main) and Gervais Street owned by his father, Isaac. Lyons became director of the Commercial Bank of Columbia and served as warden and city councilman for eight years before becoming mayor in 1850. The Lyons family was very active in the community.

While the artist and actual date of the portrait are unknown, similarities with other paintings help date the work to around 1850. A portrait of Dr. Francis Lieber, also in the McKissick collection, painted in 1855 by William Scarborough provides some clues as the clothing and pose are similar. The portrait also complements the museum’s collection of 19th-century paintings of University faculty and presidents and its large political collection, which includes materials at the local, state, and national levels.

## Museum Studies Alumni Shine!

In October, recent graduates of the certificate program shined at the Southeastern Museum Conference in Baton Rouge. Melanie Neil (December 2009) and Amanda Roddy (August 2010) were speakers in the session “A Student’s-Eye View of Museum Internships.” Heather Haney (May 2009) received the Small Museum Professional Traveling Scholarship to attend the meeting.



Amanda Roddy and Melanie Neil

## Student News

**Heather Haney** is project coordinator and development associate for the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art in Buckhead, Ga.

**Elizabeth Patton Petit** is research editor-in-chief of the Van Gogh Project in Aiken, S.C.

**Amanda Roddy** has been appointed curator of education at Magnolia Mound Plantation in Baton Rouge, La.

## Looking for alumni!

The Graduate Certificate Program in Museum Management is looking to reconnect with our graduates. If you are a graduate of the program, please contact Lana Burgess (lbjurgess@mailbox.sc.edu) so that we can add you to our alumni database and possibly feature you in an upcoming newsletter.

## Executive Director Lynn Robertson Retires

Lynn Robertson has been an invaluable resource for the University of South Carolina because she approaches her profession not only with a dedication to expanding the role of university museums in higher education but also with an enthusiasm for all aspects of her work on campus. Over her 33-year career here at USC, she has worked to build McKissick into what it is today.

In 1978, when she became McKissick’s first curator of art, she teamed up with another curator, George Terry, to steer the new institution toward its focus on folk art and material culture, subjects for which it has become nationally renowned. Under her leadership McKissick has supported an active research program with international implications, documented traditional culture and crafts through fieldwork, and built significant object and archival collections. She has overseen the development of groundbreaking exhibitions that have traveled across the country and the publication of catalogues of important scholarship and reach.

From 1989 to 2008 she ran the University’s Graduate Certificate Program in Museum Management, now one of the country’s best training grounds for the next generation of museum curators and directors. Active in national museum organizations as well as those locally, Lynn continually demonstrates what passion, determination, and professional expertise can bring to accomplishing big goals. The staff and Advisory Council of McKissick Museum thank Lynn for sharing her talents so generously. She will be missed!



# Telling the Story of Southern Life ...

## Community, Culture, and the Environment



The McKissick Museum is located at the head of the University of South Carolina's historic Horseshoe in the heart of campus. All exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. McKissick is closed on Sundays. Metered parking is available on all adjacent streets and in the lower level of Pendleton Street Garage.

A number of volunteer opportunities are available at the McKissick Museum. Call 803-777-7251 for information on membership, tours, programs, and exhibits. Visit us on the Internet at [www.cas.sc.edu/mcks](http://www.cas.sc.edu/mcks).

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution.  
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## exhibitions, events, and activities

### Welcome to the Council!

McKissick Museum's Advisory Council is pleased to welcome the following individuals to the council for the 2011–2013 term: Donna Green, Kitty Hepfer, Deborah Hotchkiss, Jean Kanes, Nancy Pope, Kevin Smith, and Dr. Gene Yogodzinski.

Jim Witkowski will serve a second term as council chair. Judy Battiste will serve as first vice chair, and Suzanne Thorpe will serve a second term as second vice chair of the council. Congratulations to all!

### Membership Updates!

This fall, McKissick Museum implemented changes to its membership program to offer more benefits and encourage greater participation. All members receive a subscription to *Under the Dome* and mailed invitations to exhibit previews and special events, as well as discounts on annual gala tickets and McKissick publications.

To encourage membership, McKissick's staff and Advisory Council have placed a priority on offering a wider slate of engaging and fun programs and events. On Saturday, January 22, the museum will host a members-only dinner at West Columbia's Terra restaurant featuring locally grown food and an educational speaker. The dinner will be an intimate event with limited seating. Call Ja-Nae Epps at 803-777-7251 to check your membership status and purchase tickets before the event sells out.

### Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

[www.facebook.com/mckissickmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/mckissickmuseum) and [www.twitter.com/mckissickmuseum](http://www.twitter.com/mckissickmuseum)

### Upcoming Events

#### Walter Anderson: Everything I See is New and Strange

January 15–May 7, 2011

#### From Snapshot to Civic Action: Creating Healthy Environments through Community Engagement

January 3–March 26, 2011

#### The Nature of Things with Rudy Mancke—Spring

March 22, 2011

#### Artful Lives: Molas of the Kuna

April 9–June 25, 2011

#### Annual Fund-raiser Exhibition

June 4–August 19, 2011

#### The Nature of Things with Rudy Mancke—Summer

June 28, 2011

#### Annual Gala Fund-raiser

August 19, 2011